THRIFT IN LIGHTING

Means Better Health—Greater Convenience
More Comfort—Less Labor

CAREFUL USE OF LIGHTS
SAVES MONEY

The money saved may be put to work for you in interest-bearing War Savings Stamps.

Thrift Leaflet No. 9

·UNITED STATES·
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WHAT IS GOOD LIGHTING?

Good lighting gives light by which we can see with ease and convenience. Too little or too bright light fatigues or irritates the eyes, and this may react on the general health. A satisfactory light is steady and without glare.

To judge the strength of light, look at the object to be seen, not at the light.

A well-lighted room is one in which the light is evenly distributed with neither very bright spots nor dark shadows.

For close work use a bright, comfortably shaded light. Let it come from above and behind or from the left to avoid shadows on the work. Do not work too far from the lamp or window; twice as far from the lamp means a fourth as much light; three times as far a ninth of the light.

Light colors and smooth surfaces in walls, ceilings, and furnishings save light because they reflect it back into the room instead of absorbing it.

Make the best use of daylight. Light comes into our houses chiefly through windows. They should be adequate in size and number and placed where they will catch all the sunshine possible, especially in winter.

Narrow streets, buildings near together, dense foliage and broad-roofed piazzas shut out daylight. Transplanting a shrub or vine, or white-washing a dark, outside wall, or cutting another window, if only a small, high one, are simple ways of letting in more light. Thick, dark draperies and low-drawn shades shut out light. So do dirty windows.

Direct, or too strong light may be softened and diffused by white, delicately colored, or thin, washable draperies near the glass; a separate curtain on each sash makes it easier to regulate the light.

Artificial lighting. A good central lighting system is more convenient and requires less labor than oil lamps or candles. Saving in time and labor may often be turned into money.

Choose material, shape and color of shade, globe and bulb to soften the light and to throw it where it is needed. If a table light is the only light for a room, have a thin, opal or frosted shade. When there is a soft, general light, the shade of the lamp used for close work may be dark, with a white lining. Have the standard of the lamp high enough so that the light shines over the entire working surface, but low enough so that the burner or filament is hidden from the eyes. When it is necessary to use a shade that does not cut off the light comfortably, a small, removable screen or a piece of cloth or paper may be used with it; be careful of fire.

KEROSENE

Kerosene lamps, with round or double wicks, shaded and cared for properly, give a steady, agreeable light but much heat. Keep the wick and its tube free from char. Rub or cut the wick even with the top of the tube; an uneven edge causes smoke. When not in use turn the wick down just below the top of the tube so that the oil will not ooze over. Keep the whole burner clean, so that the air may draw through properly to give the best flame and to avoid smell from oil and dirt. Clean the burner occasionally by boiling with washing soda.

A chimney should fit loosely enough so that it will have room to expand when heated. Keep it clean. When washed, dry completely to prevent cracking. It will last longer if when new it is put into cold water, slowly heated, boiled for a few minutes, slowly cooled, and thoroughly dried.

Fill the tank to within one-half inch of the top, not higher. NEVER FILL A LIGHTED LAMP. Do not turn the wick to full height until the flame is well started, or it will smoke the chimney or even break it. To put out the light use the extinguisher if there is one. Otherwise, turn the wick down below the top of the wick tube and let the flame go out of itself, or blow *across* the top of the chimney. Never blow *down* the chimney—the flame may be driven into the tank. For safety in carrying about, choose a metal lamp. Where little light is needed it is safer and cheaper to use a small lamp rather than a large one turned low.

CANDLES

Candle light, particularly if shaded, is soft and pleasant and may save light when not much is needed; but is not well suited for working or reading. Keep candles away from curtains, etc., and avoid fire risk. For carrying about, into closets, etc., an electric torch is convenient and safer.

GAS

Gas burners. There are two types—the open flame and the incandescent mantle. Open-flame burners carry three to seven cubic feet of gas per hour, according to the tip. For a guide-light or a small amount of light use a very small tip. Dirty or broken tips lessen light.

The incandescent mantle uses about one-third as much gas as the open flame and gives more light and less heat. Handle the mantle gently. Ask the dealer who sells the burner and mantle to show you how to care for and adjust them. The whole mantle should be glowing white, with no flame showing and no black deposit. The efficiency of a mantle depends on the proper air and gas supply; these may need careful adjustment each time the gas is turned on.

Cautions. Look out for leaks. Escaping gas is dangerous to health and injures furnishings. Report leaks to the gas company at once; stop them temporarily with soap, adhesive plaster, or tire tape. Tighten cocks that turn too easily. Do not use a cock that turns all the way round. Know where the gas enters the house and how to shut it off quickly in case of an emergency. In using slot meters, deposit the required coin before the gas supply runs out. If it has run out, close all cocks before putting the coin in or gas will escape when it comes on.

GASOLINE GAS, ACETYLENE, COMPRESSED "OIL-GAS"

These often make possible a convenient, central lighting system. Their running cost is usually low. For installation and management the rules of the National Board of Fire Underwriters should be followed.

ELECTRICITY

Electric light is convenient; it may be placed wherever needed; it gives no dirt and little heat. Part of the cost of electric lighting is offset by the less frequent need for cleaning and redecorating the house.

The glowing wire or filament in the bulb should be hidden; its glare dulled and its light spread by proper shading.

Tungsten lamps give at least twice as much light for the same power as the carbon lamps, and for continued service they cost less in the long run.

SPEND WISELY

SAVE SANELY

Electric lamps are marked to show the power taken (watts) when used at a certain pressure (volts); for example, a lamp marked 110 v 40 w will work best at 110 volts and will use 40 watts at that voltage. Lamps of 10, 15, 25, 40, 60, 75, and 100 watts capacity are now common. For a single lamp, 40 watts probably serves the greatest number of conditions. Two or more of 25 watts may give better light and cost no more, because all need not be in use at one time. A much smaller light will be sufficient for closets and halls, while one as low as two watts may serve for a guide.

Lamps become dull with use; more electricity is then used to produce less light. A standard tungsten lamp should burn efficiently for a thousand hours.

Dirty lamps use the same power and give less light than clean ones.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

Save money in lighting. Why pay for wasted light? Form the "turn-out" habit. Use gas mantles and tungsten lamps. Learn to read the meters; check the bills. Take advantage of discounts for prompt payment. Buy kerosene in as large quantities as you can safely store. Ask yourself these questions. Can the cost be reduced by better care, by changing the size, place and number of lights, or by burning them fewer hours? Would a different system be more economical?

Watch the lighting costs by keeping monthly records. Compare not only the yearly totals but also those for the same months of different years.

LIGHTING COST RECORD

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1918												
1919												
1920												

Even small savings, multiplied at compound interest as in War Savings Stamps, accumulate to buy added comforts for the home.

THEN BUY WAR

SAVINGS STAMPS